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Allen B. Kewell

HISTORY OF THE GIFT OF SIX HUNDRED NATIONAL FLAGS TO THE SCHOOLS OF PORTO RICO

BY LAFAYETTE POST, NO. 140
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
1898

ARRANGED BY
WILBUR F. BROWN, ADJUTANT



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THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

ALLAN C. BAKEWELL

BY HIS COMRADES OF LAFAYETTE POST
AS A TESTIMONIAL OF THEIR APPRECIATION OF
HIS SERVICES AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN
PRESENTING IN PERSON THE NATIONAL
FLAG TO THE 'SCHOOLS OF
PORTO RICO.

HISTORY OF THE GIFT OF SIX HUNDRED NATIONAL FLAGS TO THE SCHOOLS OF PORTO RICO : : : :

NEW YORK, *January*, 1899.

DEAR COMRADE BAKEWELL:


At a special encampment of Lafayette Post, held December 30th, 1898, following the reading of your report upon your mission to Porto Rico to present to the schools of that island the National Flag in the name of Lafayette Post, it was resolved that the report, your address of presentation and the several documents in connection therewith, should be published for distribution and in a manner befitting the important occasion. This action was unanimous, and was intended not only to record the patriotic work of the Post in fulfilment of its self-imposed task of encouraging reverence for the flag among the youth of our land, but to testify as well to your unselfish devotion to the interests of the Post and your loyalty to country.

The desire of your comrades to show appreciation of your disregard of the dangers to health in performing so meritorious a service, and of your voluntary gift of time and the expenses of the journey, will, I am sure, be manifested more in consonance with your wishes by this tribute than by any other they could devise.

This little book is sent forth as a sequel to your mission, with the hope that it may carry an influence with it that shall bear fruit to the credit of the Grand Army of the Republic and be an heritage to those who shall live after we have finished our labors.

With it is sent a blessing to all kindred societies who labor for the welfare of others, and with it is added sincere expressions of thankfulness that neither disease nor disaster befell you amid the perils of your journey. That your years may be long and your cup of happiness full is the wish of all your comrades of the Post.

Yours in F., C., and L.,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph J. Little". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Commander.

TO COMRADE ALLAN C. BAKEWELL.

EXTRACT FROM POST MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 1898

“Comrade Holly addressed the Post on a proposition to send flags to public schools at Porto Rico . . . and it was resolved to send at least two flags to Porto Rico to General Miles and a flag to Santiago. This motion was carried, and the subject was referred to the Standing Committee on Flag Presentation with power.”

CIRCULAR

LAFAYETTE POST, NO. 140,
DEPT. OF NEW YORK, G. A. R.
NEW YORK, *August 29, 1898.*

COMRADE:

This memoranda with regard to flags for Porto Rico is enclosed separate from the Post order that the whole matter may be clearly understood and comrades may act their pleasure in contributing.

Feeling that the committee could not authorize expenditures on account of the Post without formal resolution and action of the Post, the Commander offered to bear the expense of the whole affair, but it was thought better if it could be made under the auspices of the Post by voluntary contributions from comrades to do so.* There was not time for delay. Cable advices from General Miles, Porto Rico, gave the number of public schools at 548, and private schools at 38. Further cables announced schools as opening August 15th. The proposition to supply these schools with flags has met with the approval of and has been accepted by the Government.

The necessary flags are being made of approved material and pattern by responsible contractors. They will be personally presented with appropriate remarks to each school in Porto Rico by the Junior Vice-Com-

* The latter course was the one pursued.

mander Bakewell, accompanied by a learned and expert interpreter.

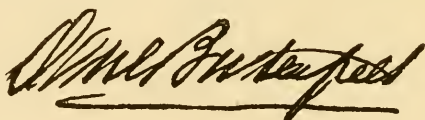
Any comrade who may desire to contribute will please send his contribution to Comrade E. A. Whitfield, care of Tiffany & Co., Union Square, New York, with the enclosed blank clearly filled out. Each comrade contributing can have, for each two dollars subscribed, his name, or that of his wife, or any member of his family or friend, inscribed on the canvas edge hoist as presenting the flag so marked to the school to which the flag is given, thereby connecting the individual with the work as well as the Post.

It is necessary that contributions should be made promptly.

It is not doubted that comrades, if they so decide, will find others who would be pleased to join, and blanks to fill up for others are enclosed herewith, to be sent in with the names and contributions to Treasurer Whitfield.

Full authority having been given by the committee to the Commander to carry out the whole matter as he thought best, it will be carried out completely as herein indicated—this opportunity being given to comrades to join if they so desire. The flags will be sent without delay and without regard to whether contributions sufficient are received or otherwise—of course the Commander will be very glad if every comrade can join in the matter.

Yours in F., C., and L.,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wm. B. ...", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Commander.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
STATE OF NEW YORK,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.
ALBANY, *October 18, 1898.*

Special Orders, No. 189.

I. Lieutenant-Colonel Allan C. Bakewell, Assistant Adjutant-General, having volunteered for the patriotic service, is hereby authorized to report to Major-General Daniel Butterfield, Commander of Lafayette Post, No. 140, G. A. R., Department of New York, for the purpose of distributing to the public schools of the new United States Territory of Porto Rico the United States flags furnished for the purpose by that Post, in accordance with its custom and usage in promoting patriotic education and loyalty among school children.

II. Lieutenant-Colonel Bakewell is hereby granted leave of absence.

III. It is understood that no expenditures or charges are to be incurred thereby on behalf of the State of New York by Colonel Bakewell.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

C. WHITNEY TILLINGHAST, 2D,

Adjutant-General.

Official.

I. F. HANDY,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

TO LIEUT.-COL. ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.
WASHINGTON, *October 22, 1898.*

COMMANDING GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF PORTO
RICO, AND OTHER OFFICERS OF MILITARY
POSTS IN THAT DEPARTMENT.

Sir: Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Bakewell, U. S. Volunteers, visits Porto Rico for the purpose of distributing flags to the schools in that island generously donated by the Lafayette Post of New York. Secretary of War directs that all officers extend to Colonel Bakewell every facility to carry into effect the mission on which he comes.

Very respectfully,

H. C. CORBIN,

Adjutant-General.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
PONCE, PORTO RICO, *August 21, 1898.*

MAJOR ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
Vice-Commander Lafayette Post, No. 140.
Union League Club, New York City.

Dear Major: I have received your letter with the type-written copy of the letter from General Butterfield, for which I wish to express my thanks. I shall be very glad to see you here with the officer who is to accompany you, and assure you that I will render you every assistance possible in the way of transportation to carry out your most praiseworthy and patriotic work. I am sure that the raising of these flags on the schools of this beautiful island will add much to the patriotic feeling that exists now, and tend to endear our country more to its people, now a part of our own. It may be possible that I may be called away before you arrive, in which event I am sure that General Wilson or General Brooke will do all they can to assist you. With best wishes, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

NELSON A. MILES,

Major-General.

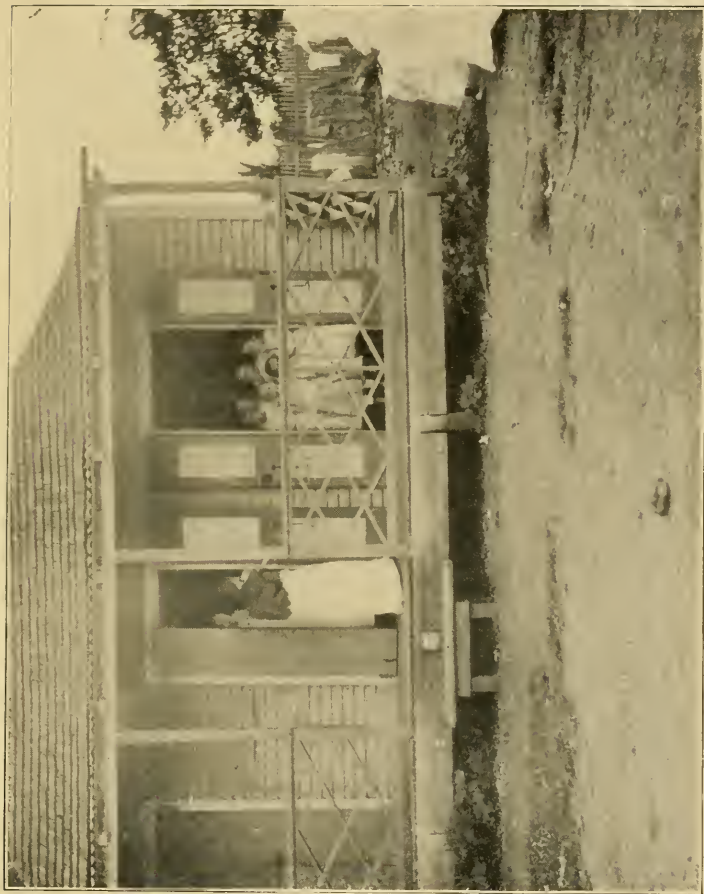
HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO.
SAN JUAN, *December 1, 1898.*

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF U. S. TROOPS
IN PORTO RICO :

This will be presented to you by Colonel Allan C. Bakewell of New York, who has a mission to fulfil in Porto Rico. It is desired by the Major-General commanding that you give Colonel Bakewell such assistance as he may desire whenever it is possible to do so.

Very respectfully,

W. V. RICHARDS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.



SCHOOL AT PORTO RICO.

479 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

December 30, 1898.

TO MAJOR-GENERAL DANIEL BUTTERFIELD,

Commander Lafayette Post, No. 140, Dept. of N.Y., G. A. R.

Dear Sir and Comrade: I have the honor to report upon my mission to Porto Rico to present to the schools there the flags donated for that purpose by and through Lafayette Post.

Accompanied by Lieutenant H. K. Bird of the 171st Regiment, N. Y. N. G., who acted as my aide and secretary, I embarked on the transport *Berlin*, on November 16th, having understood that that vessel would proceed direct to San Juan. Pursuant, however, to orders, the vessel proceeded to Santiago to land passengers and supplies. During the two days' stop at Santiago I visited the battlefields of San Juan and El Caney, and stood by the empty grave of Comrade Wetherell of our Post, one of the most picturesque spots in the vicinity of the battlefields. From Santiago we proceeded to Ponce, arriving in the harbor on the morning of November 26th, but were detained on shipboard twenty-four hours under Government quarantine regulations. We were released

at 9:30 A.M. and landed. After paying my respects to the officer in command of the military district (Colonel Castelman of the First Kentucky Volunteers, now Brigadier-General) and making a hasty survey of the town, we reëmbarked, and the same night proceeded to San Juan, arriving there on the morning of November 28th. Immediately on landing I reported to General Brooke at his headquarters and presented to him my orders and letters from you and from General Miles and Adjutant-General Corbin.

General Brooke received me with the utmost cordiality, and we freely discussed my mission and the adoption of plans best calculated to insure its success. He caused orders to be issued to all officers in command throughout the island, instructing them to afford me every needed facility and to coöperate with me in every suitable way in furtherance of my work. He detailed an efficient and accomplished interpreter with instructions to report to me and serve as my special interpreter during my stay on the island. He sent me with an introduction to Dr. Carbonell, the Secretary of the Interior of the former Spanish Government, who had been retained in office by General Brooke. Dr. Carbonell is a gentleman of high character and exceptional ability, and in entire sympathy with the new order of things. The public school system of Porto Rico is a part of the Department of the Interior of the island, and while the individual schools in each town are under the immediate supervision of the Alcalde or Mayor, each Alcalde is under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior (Formento).

Dr. Carbonell manifested the keenest interest in my mission, and at once tendered to me his hearty coöperation.

Assured of the hearty, enthusiastic, and lively sympathy of all the authorities, civil and military, that greatly exceeded my most sanguine expectations, I arranged for the first presentation ceremony to take place at the Plaza Alfonso XII., San Juan, on the morning of December 4th at nine o'clock.

Promptly at the hour named the schools formed in a hollow square. Thus grouped about your representative were the principals, teachers, and pupils of the several schools in the city. There were rich children and poor ones; all were bright, cleanly, cheerful, and expectant. They numbered about 1,200.

The ceremony was opened by the band of the Eleventh United States Infantry playing "My Country, 'tis of Thee." Then each principal in order of his or her seniority was presented with an American flag and certificate, which were received with much enthusiasm. I then delivered a brief address, telling of Lafayette Post and its patriotic motive in presenting to them "Old Glory."

A Spanish translation of this address was read, and at its conclusion Dr. Carbonell called for three cheers for the United States, President McKinley, Lafayette Post, and General Brooke, and even the undersigned was included in the call. Everybody heartily responded.

In conclusion the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," when every male head was uncovered and remained so until the last bar was rendered.

The schools were then dismissed, and each, headed by its standard bearer, their steps keeping time with the music of "The Stars and Stripes Forever," marched homeward. I cannot express my feelings as I realized the accomplishment of this important mission.

Among those present were General and Mrs. F. D. Grant, his staff, and members of the Insular Cabinet. I also noticed the British, French, and many other consuls and representatives of foreign nations.

From San Juan, at which place I established headquarters, I made several trips to the remote parts of Porto Rico by boat and on horseback, inspecting the several companies of New York State troops stationed at Fajardo, Isabel Segunda on the island of Vieques, where the soldiers are garrisoned in old mediæval barracks. Humacao was also visited. Many of the towns were located inland about four or five miles from the coast, because the early settlers desired to hide the towns so they could not be found by the buccaneers who then sailed the Spanish Main for the purpose of robbing and pillaging the seaboard villages as well as the merchantmen.

At Fajardo Playa a significant and very gratifying incident happened. I noticed in the crowd of urchins, or muchachos, as they are called, a bright-eyed little chap whose attire was even more scant than that of his companions. He held in his hand a flower. Now, there is one peculiarity about Porto Rico, which seems strange in so fertile a country, and that is the scarcity of flowers which is peculiar to this locality at that season of the year. The blossom which this lad held in his hand was the first flower I had noticed on the island. It was this that attracted my attention to him. Seeing that I was remarking it, he came forward and gave it me, and I put it in my buttonhole. In return I gave him a silk flag that I happened to have in my pocket. He looked at it a moment, turned it over, and again stared at it. Then suddenly, without a word of thanks, he scampered away

up the street as fast as his bare feet could carry him. I watched him run to the door of his hut, call his mother and deliver his prize to her. He then ran into the woods at the back of the house and shortly emerged with a long stick of bamboo. Well, in less time than it takes to tell it the flag of the United States floated over Fajardo.

The next large function was held on December 9th, in the city of Mayagüez. Mayagüez is one of the wealthiest, most aristocratic, and progressive of all the Porto Rican cities.

On my arrival I called on Lieutenant-Colonel Carr, of the Fifth United States Cavalry, commanding the district and province of Mayagüez. He assured me of his earnest coöperation. I then visited the Alcalde, and delivered to him seventy-seven flags to be distributed to schools in his district outside of the city of Mayagüez, and received a receipt for them.

At four o'clock Saturday afternoon there were assembled at the Plaza twenty-seven city schools and about one thousand scholars, the Alcalde and City Council, Lieutenant-Colonel Carr, and all the officers on duty, Mr. Gerhardt Monefeldt, the British vice-consuls, the bands of the Fifth United States Cavalry and of the firemen.

My address was read in Spanish. Mr. F. Cubas, a leading citizen, replied in English, stating that, at the request of the Alcalde, and on behalf of the people of Mayagüez, he wished to cordially thank me for coming to that city, and for the patriotic action of the Lafayette Post in sending the flags; that they desired me to assure my comrades that their gift would always be cherished by them; that "the people of Mayagüez stood

ready to become loyal citizens of the United States, and were waiting for a chance to attest that loyalty by defending our flag with their life's blood, whether it be on the green hills of their native land or on the white, snow-clad plains of the mother country."

I presented to the principal of each school a flag, and was thanked by each one in a very graceful and polite manner. The schools paraded past the stand and were reviewed by the assembled dignitaries. After the review sweetmeats were distributed among the children. I returned the next day to San Juan by way of Aguadilla and Camuy, at which places I visited the schools and witnessed the exercises which were being held. I subsequently furnished these schools with flags.

Before finally leaving San Juan I had a long interview with Dr. Carbonell, and together we reviewed the work which had been done, the feeling manifested by the teachers and children, and the general population as well, over the presentation of the flags, the moral effect already produced and likely to result, and, generally, the influence of this remarkable enterprise of Lafayette Post in inculcating among the youth of Porto Rico loyalty to the Union of the United States of America and veneration for the flag as the emblem of liberty, equal rights, and national unity.

Dr. Carbonell was most enthusiastic over the results already achieved and most sanguine of the permanency of the influence of the work upon the youth of Porto Rico. Indeed, he expressed his entire confidence that the schools of Porto Rico would all speedily adopt the reception and salutation of the flag as part of their daily curriculum, and conjoined with patriotic exercises suited to the sex and age of the pupils.

He had made a careful estimate of the number of flags required to provide each school with a flag, and showed me data justifying a total of 600. Indeed, before leaving him, he exacted from me a promise that Lafayette Post would send him the additional 300 (I having brought out 300 with me). I earnestly recommend that these flags be sent as soon as possible.* I have no doubt whatever that Dr. Carbonell will regard their delivery as a sacred trust, and that he will promptly and properly distribute them. Indeed, before I left Porto Rico he had caused to be distributed a considerable number of flags, which I delivered to him for the purpose, to various schools in the country districts which I could not personally visit.

As I was to sail from Ponce on my return to New York, Dr. Carbonell sent orders to the Alcalde of that city to arrange for a public ceremonial for the presentation of flags.

I proceeded to Ponce by way of the military road. A report of my journey would be incomplete without a description of this road. The construction of it was commenced in 1880; finished in 1888, and cost several million dollars. It was built entirely of macadam, and as much care is bestowed upon it as on those in our prominent parks. It might be a road through the Garden of Eden, so verdant and beautiful is the surrounding scenery, so fertile the plants and plateaus. Every turn of the road disclosed some new caprice of nature, some rare blending of light and shade. On every side, over every hill and vale, nature's green tapestry is

* These flags were forwarded to Dr. Carbonell after the submission of this report.—A. C. B.

spread and draped in all its virgin purity. The air is fragrant and soft like that of a huge conservatory. The poverty of my words prevents me from doing justice to the resplendent beauty of this portion of our Emerald Isle.

On my arrival at Ponce on the 19th I found the preparations well under way. The presentation of the flags at Ponce took place on the 20th of December.

Here I distributed flags to twenty-one schools, and some 800 scholars were assembled. Again the flags were received with unbounded enthusiasm by officials, teachers, and scholars.

Through the courtesy of Comrade and Lieutenant-Colonel Burke, commanding the district of Ponce, the band of the Nineteenth Regulars was present and played patriotic music to the delight of the multitude. I made an address and then presented the flags.

On receiving the flag and certificate, many of the principals responded with brief addresses full of patriotic sentiment and gratitude. The following is one that was delivered in English by the principal of the boys' primary school :

"*Sir*: Believe me that I will always keep this handsome flag with love. I will defend it during all my life, and I will teach my pupils to respect and love it always. When you return to the United States tell how the Porto Ricans have received the American flag."

The Alcalde called upon the children for three cheers for the flag, which were given with a will ; after which they marched by me in review and were dismissed. As

the last school passed I realized with regret that my mission was ended.

Many of the schools in cities are located on the second floor of a house, and are hired by the principal. In some cases the teachers have to pay the rent of the schoolroom out of their salary. The evil of this system is apparent.

Schoolrooms for the most part are cleanly, but scantily furnished. Books are scarce, and in the primary schools many of the lessons are taught from placards, which line the walls. In the smaller towns the schools occupy huts containing but one room.

The wages paid the teachers vary from \$40 to \$100 per month, Porto Rican currency. During the Spanish occupancy the days of payment were very uncertain, but I am happy to say that the instructors are now paid promptly. Children go to school at about four years of age and leave at thirteen, unless they go to the institute which corresponds to our high school.

There is one college on the island which is conducted by a Roman Catholic order, and was heavily subsidized by the Spanish Government. I was told that none but Spaniards, or strong Spanish sympathizers, were admitted.

General Guy Henry, who is at present military governor, has, with the coöperation of Dr. Carbonell, already begun to reorganize the entire school system.

I was astonished at the scarcity of our flag everywhere. Wherever I stopped, as soon as my mission became known, I received requests for flags from military, naval, and civil authorities. Many of these it was impossible to refuse, and your flags are now flying at the naval station, commissary's and paymaster's offices

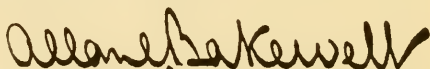
in San Juan, and the army posts at Cayey, Caguas, Guayama, Toa Alto, and others.

We sailed from Ponce on December 21st on the Red D Line steamer *Philadelphia*, arriving in New York at 6 P.M., December 26th.

Much of the success of my mission was due to the active and hearty coöperation of the army officers in every city and town I visited, and especially to the constant and zealous aid rendered me by Lieutenant Bird, my secretary.

In conclusion I desire to put on record the opinion that of the many good deeds and patriotic works for which this great Post is famous, there is none which is likely to exert a more lasting influence or be productive of greater good than the presentation of American flags to the schools of Porto Rico.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Allen B. Kewell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

*Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant
Adjutant-General, S. N. Y. ;
Special Flag Commissioner for
Lafayette Post.*

ADDRESS OF COMRADE BAKEWELL ON PRESENTING THE FLAGS

MR. CHAIRMAN, TEACHERS, AND SCHOLARS.

Ladies and Gentlemen : Thirty-five years ago the people of the United States of America were in the midst of a terrible war—a war which lasted four years, engaging from the beginning to the end over two millions of men in active service.

It is not pertinent to this occasion for me to make mention of the causes of that war, or to deal with it, except for the introduction of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization born in the travail of war and growing into a society having more than 300,000 members. No one may belong to it unless he served in the army and navy of 1861 to 1865 under the banner of the Stars and Stripes.

The Grand Army of the Republic is a parent civil organization, having for its offspring State departments which are composed of smaller bodies called posts. I represent one of these posts—Lafayette Post, No. 140, of the Department of the State of New York—one of nearly seven hundred in the State, banded together for patriotic purposes.

The Grand Army of the Republic is a fraternal and charitable order, dealing with fraternity and charity chiefly within its own membership; but the corner-stone of its foundation is loyalty—loyalty to the Government of the United States and the flag which is the emblem of its sovereignty and the ensign of freedom.

In many ways the Grand Army of the Republic has been instrumental in emphasizing patriotism and in inculcating a spirit of loyalty among the youth of the country which holds its position in the family of nations, supported by the principles of liberty, and shelters its citizens under the protection of the flag; and if I recite only the incidents connected with Lafayette Post it is not because it has been alone in the labor of loyalty, but because I am more familiar with its own history and achievements.

Ten years ago the educational institutions of the United States were devoted to geography and history and other branches of study from books—regardless of object lessons of patriotism—but a spirit of usefulness was moved to action within the minds of my comrades of the Post, and we presented a beautiful flag to the College of the City of New York. It was publicly done in a manner befitting the dignity of the college and the character of the men composing the Post. Following this, during short intervals of time, other flags—many of them—were presented by the Post to other schools, in different localities in the State, even beyond its borders. On these occasions whenever the glorious flag floated to the breeze and was kissed by the zephyrs which came across our abundant lakes and down the sides of our majestic mountains, an inspiration was wafted across the

continent that touched the patriotism of our people and fanned into fervor the noble feelings of love for the country where liberty is queen and whose throne is equality, until to-day this splendid flag climbs the staff on every schoolhouse in the land whenever the children assemble, and waves its benediction and asserts its protection to the growing youth who are inspired by its grace and power, to cherish and defend it. Beneath this flag, not only flying above—but draped on the walls within the enclosures—the preceptors teach reverence to the Almighty and loyalty to freedom; and the scholars, inspired by its presence, learn of the noble duties of life and become educated to resist to death the advance of oppression.

Lafayette Post is the parent of military instruction in public schools. It has erected a pedestal of granite, with mottoes and emblems and prayer set in bronze, from which rises a staff piercing the air 150 feet above, to fly the flag over a university where a thousand young men are finishing a course of study just as they step from youth to manhood to take their places among the people who rule—from whose body a hundred threw away the gown and cap and sprang from the lap of luxury and refinement, full panoplied for the war just closed, that they might carry to the “isles of the sea” the liberty that reigns on a continent of seventy millions of freemen; it has gone into the humbler section of my own great city of New York, and supported a class in civics; it has planted on the highway winding through the places made historic in the period of the Revolution of 1776 a memorial to Lafayette, the noble French marquis who left his own land to come to ours to help *us* establish liberty and break in two the yoke of thralldom.

I might tell you more. We feed the hungry and clothe the poor; we minister unto the sick and we bury the dead, with the flag for a winding sheet as we lower them away covered with flowers to sleep the soldier's sleep of peace. And the last deed which the Infinite God placed within our reach to perform was to place in the Volunteer and Regular Army of the United States, then in camp for active service, nearly 4,000 men to add their strength and courage to the forces gathered to go into the fortified places of an acclimated foe and drive inhumanity away from the peaceful neighborhood of our own happy and contented country.

And now, my friends, in the line of duty which the soldiers and sailors of the republic have laid upon their lives; in the name of Lafayette Post, No. 140, Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic; in the name of more than 300,000 veteran soldiers of our own war; in the name of the great United States, which has acknowledged our mission and aided us to perform it, I have been sent to you by the Post in which I hold a command, fully cognizant of the sublimity of the priceless gift I have brought to raise over your schools and to festoon upon your walls—the flag of the United States.

If, as with my own people, it shall be an object lesson that shall teach what it implies and lead you on to the day when you, like us, will recognize all the power it stands for, all the mercy it carries, all the security it guarantees, and inspire you to reverence it and obey its silent but superior admonitions, and you follow its beckoning to a high standard of conscientious regard for law and government, my mission

will have been holy, and the end your own happiness and comfort.

In the United States we not only fly the flag over the schools—we have broadened out into a wider sphere of usefulness: we have been taught by the flag that there is yearning for all knowledge of those who fought for it and died for it—of all the blessings brought with its defence and preservation; and we have established in the schools special days for the recital of heroic deeds and the eulogy of the bravest men. With tableaux, and oration, and song, and parade the scenes of national victory and national glory are spread before the youth to teach all that they represent. The national hymns are sung; the children beat time to martial music; the stories of noble lives are told, and with this grand object in view all are directed to the God of the nation which governs in His name and lives by the precept of the Golden Rule of Christ.

Teachers, I commend the flag to you as a text-book of freedom. Tell these children of its birth, its history, its glorious achievements; tell them that under its government every child is of noble birth and every son may become a ruler.

And scholars, I have been sent here by veteran soldiers who want you to share their comforts, their happiness, their liberty. They have fought on many a bloody field for the supremacy of this flag; not because they were valiant alone, but because the flag would protect their hearthstones and the sanctity of their homes. They left homes of comfort—their fond mothers, loving wives; they tore themselves away from their clinging children, and endured hardships, and suffering, and pain. Many left their limbs on the field of battle, and

thousands have borne for thirty years physical suffering and poverty that this beautiful flag might be preserved. And now they send it to you with all the blessings it represents, to cheer you on the way of life. Cherish it, I beseech you, as you should esteem honor and purity; and never forget that it was human love which sent it to you, and divine love which gave it birth.

Fellow citizens—and I address you thus advisedly—my duty on this occasion is done, and in the fulfilment of the mission there has been laid an obligation upon you that can only end with your lives. Whoever holds up that flag is a benefactor of the human race; whoever hauls it down is a master of oppression and a curse to his kindred.



THE LITTLE FELLOW HOLDING COLONEL BAKEWELL'S HAND IS THE BOY WHO RAISED THE
FIRST UNITED STATES FLAG IN FAJARDO.

To _____
in charge of _____ School
at _____, Porto Rico.

Dear Sir : The National Flag of the United States of America is presented herewith to the school in your charge, by Lafayette Post, No. 140, Department of New York of the Grand Army of the Republic, a national organization composed entirely of veterans who saw service in defending the flag in the Civil War, 1861 to 1865.

Lafayette Post is a prominent part of such organization. It contains many conspicuous and brilliant soldiers among its members, including several Generals who have participated in the war with Spain.

Many retired soldiers and prominent and distinguished citizens of the United States are, or have been, members of the organization; among them the following Presidents of the United States: Generals U. S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley; also Generals W. T. Sherman, P. H. Sheridan, Joseph Hooker, H. W. Slocum, Daniel E. Sickles, O. O. Howard, Russell A. Alger, now Secretary of War; Nelson A. Miles, now Commander of the United States Army, and Daniel Butterfield, Commander of Lafayette Post, and others.

Lafayette Post inaugurated a system of presenting

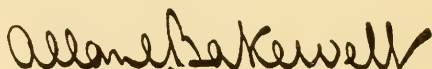
the flag of our country to the Public Schools in the United States.

In common with all our citizens, it feels a deep interest in the welfare of the people of our beautiful island of Porto Rico. It desires that Porto Rican youth should speedily follow our custom to venerate and love this flag. This flag ensures not only the protection of liberty and the rights of all who live under it, but also religious freedom, security in rights of property, with the happiness and prosperity that come from honest work.

I come to see that you receive this flag as the custodian and guardian on behalf of the donors, my comrades of Lafayette Post, and the school and scholars to whom it is now presented. It is to remain in your custody and that of whomever succeeds you in the care of the school property.

Hoping you will accept this as a sacred trust, and that it may prove serviceable in making good citizens of the youth under your charge, I am

Your friend and servant,



*Lt.-Col. and A. A. G. Staff
of Governor of New York,
Junior Vice-Commander of
Lafayette Post, and Special
School Flag Commissioner
to Porto Rico.*

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO,
December 17, 1898.

[The foregoing is a copy of the certificate, printed both in English and Spanish, that was presented with the flag to each school, in suitable form for framing, in the centre of which was a beautifully embossed flag, of which the outside cover of this book is a facsimile.]

CIRCULAR OF INSTRUCTIONS, PRINTED IN ENG-
LISH AND SPANISH, DISTRIBUTED TO ALL
THE SCHOOLS

The general form of presentation of the United States flag in most of the public schools is substantially as follows: At the given hour in the morning the pupils are assembled and in their place in the school. A signal is given by the principal of the school. Every student or pupil rises in his place. The flag is brought forward to the principal or teacher. While it is being brought forward from the door to the stand of the principal or teacher every pupil gives the flag the military salute, which is as follows:

The right hand uplifted, palm upward, to a line with the forehead, close to it. While thus all standing with the palm uplifted and in the attitude of salute, all the pupils repeat together slowly and distinctly the following pledge:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic for which it stands. One nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

At the words as pronounced in this pledge, "*to my flag*," each one extends the right hand gracefully, palm upward, toward the flag until the end of the pledge or

affirmation. Then all hands drop to the side. The pupils still standing, all sing together in unison the song, "America," "My Country, 'tis of Thee."

In the primary departments, where the children are very small, they are taught and repeat this instead of the pledge as given for the older children :

"I give my hand, my head, my heart to my country.
One country, one people, one flag."

YAUCO, PORTO RICO, *December 27, 1898.*

COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,

Junior Vice-Commander Lafayette Post, No. 140,

G. A. R., New York City.

Dear Colonel: Enclosed please find an address read by Senorita Ines Caparros Soler at the turning over of the flags to the schools in this city on the 25th day of December at 9 A. M. The presentation was made in the city hall, a large number of the representative citizens of the place, the teachers of all the schools in the district of Yauco, and the pupils of the city schools being present. The city band discoursed our national airs. After the speaking was over, the whole party marched to the oldest school in the place, on which a flag was raised, the band playing "The Star Spangled Banner," the men uncovering, after which three cheers were given, and the ceremony was over. Hoping you had a pleasant voyage to New York, and with kind regards,

Yours very truly,

C. A. VERNON,

Captain Nineteenth Infantry,

Commanding Post.

TO PRESIDENT MCKINLEY,

GENERAL HENRY, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, HER GALLANT
ARMY AND NAVY, AND ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE THE
TRUE AMERICAN HEART—*Greetings.*

In receiving this flag that symbolizes liberty and progress, the great federation of 45 states, with 70 millions of inhabitants all living in law and democracy my heart is filled with untold joy in feeling that in receiving this beautiful emblem I am becoming baptized as an American and thus becoming in possession of all liberties that our new father country enjoys and which are those to which she owes her greatness and power and against which must ever crumble all tyrannous governments.

Please bear to President McKinley the testimony of our profound admiration for him personally, the great leader of that onward movement of human liberty whose light is being shed upon us to day, also to the great American people of whom we are so proud to call ourselves fellow-citizens, to the adopted country of Lafayette, immortal name that recalls to us many historic events of your independence war. Say to those who have sent us that flag that it shall ever stand in the place of honor in our school and that our scholars shall be taught to love and venerate it, trusting our fathers, sons and brothers to defend it against all enemies whatsoever.

May this beautiful star spangled banner ever wave
over the land of the free and the home of the brave and
may we ever live under its folds.

INES CAPARROS SOLER.

School mistress.

Yauco

P. R.

W. I.

U. S. A.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO,
SECRETARY OF FOMENTO.
SAN JUAN, *January 11, 1899.*

MR. ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
New York.

Sir: I had the honor to receive your favor, dated December 30th, and see that Christmas festivities have been an impediment for that patriotic Canton * to meet.

I must inform you that I had the pleasure to distribute twenty flags to the schools of Arecibo, and the festivity resulted splendid, my speech being much applauded, as in same I exposed why it is our duty to love "The Old Glory."

The Arecibo people send their most enthusiastic thanks to the Canton Lafayette for their patriotic gift.

The same day, five flags were distributed at Camuy with the greatest pomp possible.

Yours respectfully,

DR. S. CARBONELL.

* Post.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MILITARY
INSTRUCTION

“Resolved, That the Committee on Military Instruction and Patriotic Education in Schools, to which was referred the report of Comrade Bakewell upon the presentation of flags to the schools of Porto Rico, beg to report that, after its reading and careful consideration, we feel that the thanks of the Post are due to Lieutenant-Colonel Bakewell for the very thorough manner in which he performed this service, and that we approve the carrying out of the recommendation therein contained as to forwarding 300 additional flags. We also take this occasion to thank Commander Butterfield for the manner in which he has carried forward this work since the committee referred it to him with power.”

U. S. A., DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO,
OFFICE OF JUSTICE OF JUANA DIAZ.

January 7, 1899.

MR. ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,

School Flag Commissioner to Porto Rico.

Sir : The town council, in special session held to-day, resolved to address to you a message appreciative of our gratitude to you, as the representative of Post Lafayette, for the valued gift which the said Post has been pleased to make to the schools of this district. The act of distribution took place upon the first day of the present month, accompanied by public ceremonies, with the attendance and assistance of the authorities and the Governor-General of the island. Please to extend to your honorable associates of the Post our great gratitude.

Most respectfully,

E. FROENCESCHI,

The Chief Justice.

DON JOSE CORDOVES Y BERRIOS

Secretary of the Town Council of Hato Grande, Porto Rico,

Certifies that this Council, in regular session, on the 16th of December, passed the following:

The President said that in the capital a day had been appointed for holding a beautiful civic festival, with the intention of delivering to the schools the flags which had been patriotically dedicated by Post Lafayette, No. 140, of the Department of New York; and that there were in this municipality five schools, whose teachers and scholars had the same love for the "Old Glory" of the United States as those of the capital; and that we should earnestly request for these educational centres the glorious ensigns now being carried about Guanica and San Juan with so much acclamation; and that we pray and hope for their unfolding, with all the affection, admiration, and devotion which this majestic symbol of American liberty is deserving of. The council by unanimous vote, placed on record their request to said Post, which has shown a proof of its refining affection by the gift of flags that lighten our people with their stars, and bind us together fraternally with red and white bands.

And to remit a copy of this resolution, which is filed December 22, 1898, at Hato Grande, to the President of Post Lafayette.

JOSE CORDOVES Y BERRIOS,

El Alcalde Aporte.

CONCURRING:

The President,

FERNANDO APONTE;

Aldermen or Councilmen,

FEDERICO SELTES,

FELIPE GONZALES,

LUIS SELTES,

DOMINGO SUAREZ,

SEBASTIAN APONTE,

RAFAEL COTON,

FERNANDO R. RODRIGUEZ,

JOSE RODRIGUEZ SEYO;

Secretary,

JOSE CORDOVES Y BERRIOS.

OFFICE PURCHASING AND DEPOT COMMISSARY,
U. S. ARMY.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *February 25, 1899.*

COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,

New York City.

My dear Colonel Bakewell: Upon receipt of your letter of the 9th instant in regard to the distribution of the flags contributed by Lafayette Post to the schools of this island I called upon Dr. Carbonell and found that he was out of the city. I found out last evening that he had returned, so I looked him up this morning, and he informed me that he had received the flags and had turned them over to the new Secretary of the Interior; that he had distributed some of the flags that he had received from you in person, but at the time of his resignation from office still had fifteen of these flags in his possession, and these he also delivered to the new Secretary of the Interior, making 315 that he turned over; and that he had written you. I then hunted up the Secretary of the Interior, and from him learned that all these flags had been turned over to General J. B. Eaton, Superintendent of Public Instruction in this island. I then hunted up General Eaton, whose office is in this city, and he informed me that he received these flags and is now distributing them as rapidly as can be done, in a way to insure that all will reach their proper

destinations. I know you will be pleased to learn that General Eaton seems much interested in this matter and is going to see that the schools get them. The Assistant Secretary of the Interior told me this morning that he tried to get one of these flags for his building, but General Eaton refused, saying that he needed them all for his schools.

So I think, Colonel, that you can rest assured that the good work you began will be most satisfactorily completed by General Eaton. It will always be a pleasure to me to do anything for you or your Post, Colonel, and I trust you will not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN LITTLE,

Major, U. S. Army.

LAFAYETTE POST, NO. 140,
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, G. A. R.
NEW YORK, *February 14, 1899.*

MAJOR-GENERAL GUY V. HENRY,
*Commanding Department of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.*

Dear Sir: As you may be aware, Lafayette Post undertook to furnish an American flag to every school in Porto Rico, and to that end Lieutenant-Colonel Allan C. Bakewell visited Porto Rico with several hundred American flags.

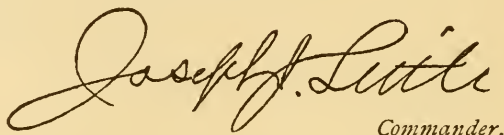
Under the direction of General Brooke, Dr. Carbonell, Secretary of the Interior, assisted Colonel Bakewell in the distribution of these flags; and such flags as Colonel Bakewell had not time to personally distribute before returning North were left in his charge, since which time Lafayette Post has forwarded 300 additional flags to his care.

Inasmuch as the newspapers report that Dr. Carbonell no longer fills that position, we respectfully request that, if you have made no other arrangement, you will designate Major George W. Fishback, Chief Paymaster, Department of Porto Rico, as the officer to direct the distribution of these flags among the schools in the

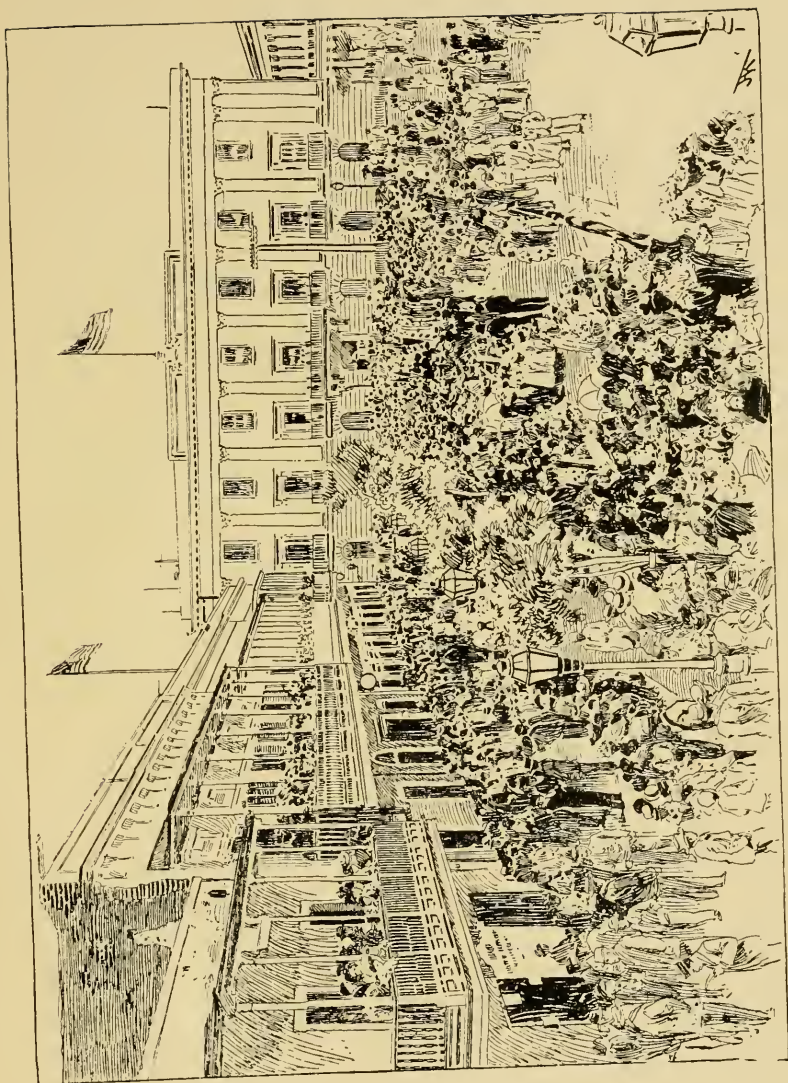
Department of Porto Rico. Major Fishback is about to sail from New York, and we understand he is willing to undertake this mission.

By complying with the above suggestion you will confer a favor upon the Post, and, as we believe, assist in the proper distribution of the flags.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph J. Little". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a prominent "L".

Commander.



PRESENTATION TO THE SAN JUAN SCHOOLS.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO.
SECRETARY OF FOMENTO.
SAN JUAN, *February 16, 1899.*

COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
New York City.

Dear Sir: The 300 flags recently shipped us, through the courtesy of Lafayette Post, for use by the public schools here, have been received, and will shortly be distributed to schools not yet supplied throughout the island. We find your circular letters and order of exercises also enclosed.

General Eaton, Superintendent of Public Instruction, directs me to thank the Post and you personally for your patriotic efforts in behalf of our schools. So far as he has been able to observe, the ceremony of saluting the flag is performed daily in all of the schools here.

Very truly yours,

VICTOR S. CLARK,
Deputy Superintendent.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO.
SECRETARY OF FOMENTO.

SAN JUAN, *February 28, 1899.*

COMMANDER J. J. LITTLE,

Lafayette G. A. R. Post, New York City.

Dear Sir: I wrote Lieutenant-Colonel Bakewell * recently, acknowledging receipt of flags. We shall welcome the coöperation of Major Fishback in the matter.

By order of General Eaton, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

V. S. CLARK,

Deputy Superintendent.

* Refers to letter of February 16th, appearing on page 57 of this report.

OFFICE OF CHIEF PAYMASTER,
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *March 13, 1899.*

COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
No. 479 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

My dear Colonel: A hurried word to say that the flags, and the three hundred certificates published in English and Spanish, and signed by you, intended for each school which secured a flag, were all received and distributed. I saw General Eaton to-day, and have an appointment with him for to-morrow afternoon. I will write you fully after that interview.

* * * * *

Best wishes to you and Bird. Write me often, and I shall do the same.

Sincerely yours,
GEO. W. FISHBACK.

ANASCIER, PLAYA,
PORTO RICO, *February 12, 1899.*

COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
New York.

Dear Sir: On January first of this year, the flag, which you had sent me, in the name of the "Post Lafayette" was delivered. My scholars received it with many expressions of endearment, and to excite their enthusiasm the more, I improvised a procession about the neighborhood of the school of my especial charge and upon our return I told them that this flag is the ensignia of protection and liberty and that we ought to love and defend it, in order to belong to the grandest and richest nation of the earth, and to have the assurance that we are beginning an era of progress and prosperity. We are in fact Americans, rallying with ardent enthusiasm under the starry banner, and to-day we are Americans by right. Each day, after roll-call, I have the flag presentation, according to your instructions, and on Saturday, I give my scholars an open air lesson, along by the shore of the ocean, always carrying for our device, this flag, which as you said, secures not only the benefits of liberty and the rights of all those who live

under it, but also religious liberty, and the guarantee of the right of property and the happiness and prosperity which result from honorable employment. Men like yourself and the members of the "Post Lafayette" are the more beneficial to the Nation, because you succeed in making everything very interesting, through your object lessons, and most powerfully inculcating and encouraging the love of country among all its citizens.

I am sincerely yours,

ULPIANO CRESPOY.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO.
SECRETARY OF INTERIOR.
Section of Education.

SAN JUAN, *March 21, 1899.*

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
479 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Sir : We have received your favor of March 2d. The flags are being distributed rapidly, to the schools not supplied by you earlier, throughout the island. I have personally made a trip through the country east of the military road, and have distributed flags and United States maps to most of the schools in that portion of the island. As opportunity offers, we are sending flags to interior points of the western part of the island every day ; all but about 150 of the last consignment have been placed in the schools. When the distribution has been entirely finished, we shall take pleasure in sending you a full report. Wherever we hear, the flags are received with favor, and the pledge is made daily in the schools.

Yours respectfully,

VICTOR S. CLARK,
Sub-Director of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF CHIEF PAYMASTER,
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *March 20, 1899.*

COLONEL ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
479 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

My dear Colonel: I have your letters of March 3d and 7th, enclosing a copy of a letter from Deputy-Superintendent Clark in regard to flags and circulars.

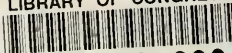
General Eaton reports very satisfactory progress in regard to the distribution of flags, and the observance of the ceremonies of saluting flags. I will adopt your suggestion, and, after another interview with General Eaton, during which I will get all the information that he has in regard to the schools here, I will write and send to you a letter, so worded that you may read it to your comrades in the Post. It will please them, no doubt, to see how thoroughly the work begun by you is carried on.

Give my kindest regards to Bird, and believe me to be,

Very sincerely yours,

GEO. W. FISHBACK.

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